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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 75

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miguel **Carbo** (Ecuador)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

"(a) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

"(b) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

"(c) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

"(d) Report of the Conference on Disarmament"

was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984 and 57/95 and 57/96 of 22 November 2002.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 29 September 2003, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 62 to 80, which was held at the 2nd to 10th meetings, from 6 to 10 and from 13 to 16 October (see A/C.1/58/PV.2-10). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 11th to 15th meetings, from 20 to 24 October (see A/C.1/58/PV.11-15). Action on all draft

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resolutions was taken at the 16th to 23rd meetings, from 27 to 30 October and from 3 to 6 November (see A/C.1/58/PV.16-23).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;[1]

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2003;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/58/316);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/58/259).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.5

5. At the 14th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Japan introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/58/L.5).

6. At its 17th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.5 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20

7. At the 15th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Nepal, on behalf of Algeria, Brazil, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Italy, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nepal and Venezuela introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/58/L.20).

8. At its 18th meeting, on 29 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.20 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution II).

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/58/27).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 42* (A/58/42).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

Taking note of active discussions held on the programme of work during the 2003 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and the records of the plenary meetings,

Taking note also of significant contributions made during the 2003 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda in the plenary meetings, as well as of discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference to commence substantive work on its agreed agenda items at this juncture,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Urges* the Conference to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items on its agenda;

3. *Welcomes* the strong collective interest of the Conference in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2004 session;

4. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Conference to request its current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, including that contained in CD/1693/Rev.1, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations, as expressed in paragraph 38 of its report;[1]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/58/27).

5. *Requests* all States members of the Conference to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of substantive work in its 2004 session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

7. *Requests* the Conference to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Draft resolution II
Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001 and 57/95 of 22 November 2002,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Bearing in mind its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

3. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

5. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its 2004 substantive session:

(a) [To be determined];

(b) [To be determined];

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2004, namely, from 5 to 23 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/58/42).
[2] See resolution S-10/2.
[3] A/CN.10/137.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/58/27).